



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

Thanksgiving Day

WHEREAS, Thanksgiving Day is a unique time for the people of the United States, a time set aside to reflect upon the fruits of our labors; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, the modern Thanksgiving holiday tradition traces its origins to a 1621 celebration at Plymouth in present-day Massachusetts; and

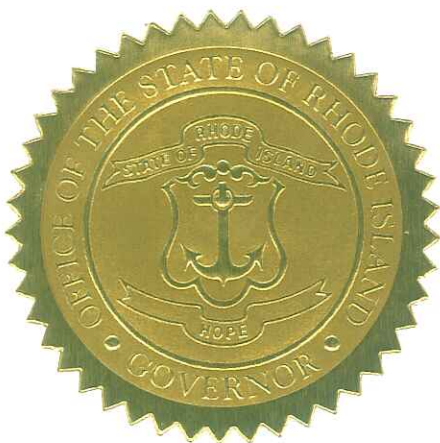
WHEREAS, in Rhode Island, Thanksgiving celebrations officially began in 1778; and

WHEREAS, Thanksgiving Day, celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November, has officially been an annual tradition in the United States since 1863, when President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national day of thanksgiving to be celebrated on Thursday; and

WHEREAS, this holiday celebrates our American way of life and calls to mind the foundations of our heritage; and


WHEREAS, Thanksgiving Day serves to unify all citizens as it reminds us that, despite our differences, we are Americans unified by the common bond of freedom and liberty throughout this land and that we share a special heritage; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lincoln D. Chafee, Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, do hereby proclaim November 24, 2011 as Thanksgiving Day in the State of Rhode Island and encourage all state residents to recognize the importance of this day.



Given under my hand and the great
seal of the State of Rhode Island
and Providence Plantations,
this 23RD day of November, 2011


Lincoln D. Chafee
Governor


A. Ralph Mollis
Secretary of State